

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A flanged connector used to join double wall square or rectangular ducts in HVAC systems, ~~[[the]]~~ each double wall ~~[[ducts]]~~ duct having an outer square or rectangular duct and an inner duct of corresponding shape and disposed within the outer duct, the flanged connector comprising:

a first square or rectangularly-shaped connector section composed of from 10-20 gauge metallic material, said first connector section comprising an outer insertion flange, said outer insertion flange having sufficient length to allow connection to an outer duct of a double wall square or rectangular duct;

an ~~exterior~~ outer mating flange extending substantially transversely from the outer insertion flange to define a first mating face and a first outer perimeter;

an exterior hem that is spaced outwardly from the outer insertion flange, said exterior hem extending away from the outer perimeter of the ~~exterior~~ outer mating flange;

a second square or rectangularly-shaped connector section composed of from 10-20 gauge metallic material, said second connector section comprising an inner insertion flange, said inner insertion flange having sufficient length to allow connection to an inner duct of a double wall square or rectangular duct;

an inner mating flange extending substantially transversely from the inner insertion flange to define a second mating face and a second outer perimeter; and

an inner hem that is substantially uniformly spaced outwardly from the inner insertion flange, said inner hem extending from the outer perimeter of the interior mating flange generally in the same direction as the inner insertion flange to overlap the outer insertion flange, wherein the inner hem is connected to the outer insertion flange such that the inner mating flange and the outer mating flange are aligned to form substantially one plane, the inner hem being of such

length to permit the outer insertion flange to be connected to the outer duct and having sufficient length to allow connection with the outer insertion flange.

2. (Currently Amended) The flange ~~[[ring]]~~ connector in Claim 1, wherein the inner insertion flange is longer than the outer insertion flange.

3. (Currently Amended) The flange ~~[[ring]]~~ connector in Claim 1, wherein the inner hem is fixably attached to the outer insertion flange.

4. (Currently Amended) The flange ~~[[ring]]~~ connector in Claim 1, wherein the outer and inner insertion flanges slidably engage inside surfaces of the outer and inner square or rectangular ducts.

5. (Currently Amended) The flange ~~[[ring]]~~ connector in Claim 1, further comprising a return flange affixed to the exterior hem.

6. (Currently Amended) The flange ~~[[ring]]~~ connector of Claim 5, wherein the return flange is formed by turning a portion of the exterior hem located distally from the ~~exterior~~ outer mating flange over on itself.

7. (Currently Amended) The flange ~~[[ring]]~~ connector in Claim 5, wherein the profile of the flange ring conforms to Sheet Metal and Air-Conditioning Contractors National Association Standard T24.

8. (Currently Amended) The flange ~~[[ring]]~~ connector in Claim 1, wherein the outer insertion flange is welded to the interior hem.